



The Hybrid Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Report

August 30, 2015

The fine print: This report is a summary of articles appearing in popular, business, and technical media referring to the impact of fuel costs and fuel efficiency on vehicle technology, development, and markets. At the end of the report is a list of all articles summarized, with hyperlinks to internet sources where available. Some articles may require free registration or paid subscriptions to access. *The Hybrid Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Report* (ISSN: 1946-1011) is compiled, written, and edited by Thomas L. R. Smith, Ph. D., Economic Analysis Branch of the Budget and Financial Analysis Division, Washington State Department of Transportation. Contact *The Hybrid Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Report's* editor at smithtm@wsdot.wa.gov or (360) 705-7941. Contributions of news items, original articles, positive comments about *The Report*, and cookies are welcome. Please send cookies. And not the computer kind.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HYBRIDS	2
ELECTRIC VEHICLES.....	2
ALTERNATIVE FUELS.....	3
COMING TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU.....	3
OTHER TECHNOLOGY.....	4
SUBSCRIBING TO <i>The Hybrid Report</i>	5
ARTICLES REFERENCED	5

National Hybrid, Plug-in Hybrid, and Electric car sales for July 2015. We usually run through the sales numbers in the edition that runs on the 15th of the month, but since we did not publish on August 15th, we will run through July's numbers in this issue. July was a surprisingly good month for hybrid sales, considering that many in the industry are claiming, once again, that due to low gas prices, the sector is done.¹ Sales for the three groups were higher in July than either the preceding month or July 2014, *Hybrid Cars* (Cobb, August 5, 2015) said.

For hybrid cars, sales were up in July over June, mostly due to strong performance from the three Prii, but there was support from a number of other hybrids, like the Ford Fusion Hybrid. Hybrids took 2.37% of the entire new car market and performed slightly better than the total market. Toyotas took 69% of the hybrid market.

Plug-in hybrid sales were better than the previous June, but not as good as one year ago. The Chevy Volt lead the market with 34% of sales, but Ford's two plug-ins; which took second and third place, had a combined 40% of the market. Toyota's discontinued Prius plug-in came in fourth with 15% of the market. Plug-ins counted for 0.26% of the entire new car market.

July electric car sales were down compared to the previous month and year. Tesla led the market with a 35% share. Tesla sales were off by 36% from the previous month, but up 29% from July 2014. The Nissan Leaf, responsible for 23% of the market was

¹ Mark Twain, "The report of my death was and exaggeration," New York Journal, June 2, 1897.

down from both June 2015 and July 2014. *Hybrid Cars* says this is due to the Leaf end of model cycle and expects sales to pick up after the new Leaf is introduced this fall.

HYBRIDS

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) received a grant from the California Energy Commission to build and test heavy duty hybrid fuel cell trucks for use in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, [Green Car Congress](#) (August 13, 2015) conjured. SCAQMD received \$2.4 million and has to build a vehicle that gets 100 miles between fueling, can operate at highway speeds, haul 80,000 pounds, and pull that weight up a 6% grade.

The Kingdom of Jordan's Council of Ministers voted to exempt hybrid and electric car batteries from sales tax, [Petra](#) (August 23, 2015), the official Jordanian news agency, said in a press release. In an earlier move, plug-in hybrids and electric vehicles were exempted from customs duties and sales tax.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Highways England will start testing Dynamic Wireless Power Transfer (DWPT) [The Engineer](#) (Excell, August 13, 2015) engages. DWPT is a power system embedded in roadways that allows car-charging while the car is driving on the highway. Highways England will test the systems at test facilities, and if they prove promising may expand the tests to actual highways.

Montevideo, in Uruguay, just added four electric cars to its taxi fleet, [Fox News Latino](#) (Agencia EFE, August 15, 2015) reported. It is unknown what brand or model the cars are, but they have a range of 217 miles on electricity. Uruguay hopes to have 60% of its taxi fleet electric by 2030.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro, a Canadian power company, and Tech Mahindra, a tech company from India, teamed up to develop a pilot project which will determine the impact of electric car charging on power company transformers, [Tech Mahindra](#) (August 18, 2012) said in a press release. Over two years, the two organizations will monitor charging and shift electric car charging throughout its system so a transformer is not overloaded. Included in the testing, 15 customer families will get to use an electric vehicle for four months.

Prospective electric car buyers in Scotland can get an interest free loan of up to £50,000 (\$76,605), [Air Quality News](#) (Holder, August 21, 2015) airs. Buyers have up to six years to pay off the loan. Business can get up to £100,000 (153,210). Interested buyers have until the end of March 2016 to apply for a loan.

Wyoming became the eighth state to levy a special fee on electric vehicles, *County 10* (August 23, 2015) touts. House Bill 0009 was passed with only three dissenting votes, and charges a \$50 fee effective on the first of July, 2015. The fee is intended to make up for all the fuel tax revenue lost to Wyoming's vast horde of electric cars. While it appears that the Wyoming legislature intended that this was an annual fee, the *Wyoming Tribune Eagle* (August 26, 2015) reports that the Wyoming attorney general cannot find anywhere in the legislation that the fee will be charged each year.

The City of Atlanta,² will lease 50 electric and plug-in hybrid cars from Vision Fleet, *Government Fleet* (Dao, August 21, 2015) flogs. The \$2.7 million, two year project is part of Mayor Kasim Reed's plan to reduce vehicle emissions by 20%. Vision Fleet will purchase and maintain the vehicles. They will also help City departments determine which vehicles to replace with electric and plug-ins.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

A new study by *CALSTART* (August 18, 2015) shows that the federal fuel efficiency standards currently under consideration will save businesses money in the long-run. CALSTART looked at many different types of fleets and trucks and interviewed fleet managers. The report found that the 40% reduction in fuel use would pay for the increased cost of equipment in one to three years.

COMING TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU: The latest news on new charging stations which may or may not be somewhere close to you.

United States: Tanger Outlet Malls installed charging stations at three of its Pennsylvania locations, *Penn Live* (Urie, August 18, 2015) penned. The malls are near Hershey, in Lancaster County, and near Pittsburgh. The ChargePoint chargers are free to customers.

Tesla owners who live in or commute to New York City will have high speed Tesla chargers in 24 parking garages, *The New York Times* (Kessler, August 13, 2015) tells. Tesla is working with several locations in Manhattan, which will be announced at a later date. Unlike the Tesla supercharger network around the country, drivers will have to pay at these chargers.

Tesla also hopes to expand their charging network to Airbnb hosts, *Fortune* (Korosec, August 20, 2015) finds. Airbnb hosts who meet certain criteria will be eligible for a free charger from Tesla. However the host has to pay for installation and charging may cost individual drivers.

² Editor's hometown, 1961-1972.

Even though the State of Georgia ended tax breaks for electric vehicles this year, registrations have been sufficiently high that Rockdale County, outside of Atlanta, just installed a charger at the Magistrate Court in Conyers, the *Rockdale Citizen* (Jones, August 26, 2015) wrote. Georgia Power and Nissan North America provided some funding for the level 2 charger.

Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, opened two level two chargers, the *Daily Herald* (Christiansen, August 25, 2015) heralded. Charging is free to the public.

You can charge any type of electric car at Richmond, Virginia's Main Street Station, presumably on Main Street, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (Ramsey, August 25, 2015) dispatched. The charging facilities at the Station include a level 3 fast charger, two level 2 chargers, and a Tesla charger. Charging charges vary based on the type of charger.

Around the World: Tesla is installing charging stations at six malls on mainland China, *Hang Lung Properties* (August 1, 2015), the owners of malls, reports in a press release. The malls are in Tianjin, Wuxi, Shanghai, Shenyang, Jinan, and Dalian.

Two parking areas in Worcester, England, will have electric chargers soon, *Worcester News* (Craig, August 12, 2015) notes. The Chargemaster chargers will be installed at the Crowngate Shopping Centre garage and St Martin's Gate car park.

In nearby Evesham, the Worcester County Council installed two new chargers at The Valley, a park in the area, the *Evesham Journal* (Mason, August 21, 2015) journaled.

Burlington, Canada, opened its first electric charger in a city parking facility near the Performing Arts Centre, *Inside Halton* (Gregory, August 27, 2015) let out. Charging will be free to paying parkers.

OTHER TECHNOLOGY

The practice of using technology to make trucks lighter and, thus, both more fuel efficient and capable of carrying more freight is called "lightweighting" in the trucking industry. While there are many companies that are developing technologies to make freight trucks lighter and more efficient, most fleets are slow in adopting these new technologies. The North American Council for Freight Efficiency has studied the issue and explains why companies are slow to adopt in their report, *Lightweighting* (Halonen, Swim & Roeth, August 25, 2015). The main reason that fleets are slow in adopting is that they feel the upfront costs don't justify the investments or that they have invested as much as they feel is prudent already. The authors of the report suggest that if more companies add lightweighting technologies then economies of scale should reduce prices.

SUBSCRIBING TO *The Hybrid Report*. *The Hybrid Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Report* (ISSN: 1946-1011) is published in Olympia, Washington on or about the 15th and 30th of each month, except for those months we publish on a different date. *The Report* is available on the WSDOT website by clicking this [link](#). From there, you can download the current issue in a PDF, look at back issues, or subscribe to a notification service that lets you know when a fresh issue has been posted to the website. You may also click this [link](#) to subscribe or contact the editor at smithm@wsdot.wa.gov who can add you to the subscription list.

More fine print: *The Hybrid Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Report* (ISSN: 1946-1011) is not responsible for hyperlinks that do not work or are inactive. All links worked when created, however, many news outlets archive or move reports soon after publication, so it's not our problem that you can't get to the cited article, so don't call or email to complain. It will be much like teaching a pig to sing: it will waste your time and irritate the pig. The appearance of articles, products, opinions, humor (such as it is), and links in this summary does not constitute an endorsement of the same by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), my wife, or my cat (especially not my cat, who has no sense of humor. She's a cat). Except as otherwise noted, WSDOT holds the copyright to *The Hybrid Report*. Photos and other artwork in *The Report* are included with express permission of the copyright holders of those works or the work is in the public domain. Further reproduction or distribution of copyrighted material is not authorized without permission of the original copyright holder. Merely acknowledging the source is not sufficient and does not excuse reproducing copyrighted material without permission. It's not that hard to ask for and get permission. So there. Use only as directed; batteries not included. In the interest of full disclosure, the editor of this summary drives a 2005 Toyota Prius, while Mrs. *Hybrid Report* Editor drives a Lexus HS 250h hybrid. Note well who drives the Lexus. We are not saying you should get either one.

ARTICLES REFERENCED

Agencia EFE. 2015, August 15. Uruguayan capital's taxi fleet gets first electric cars. *Fox News Latino*. Retrieved: <http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2015/08/15/uruguayan-capital-taxi-fleet-gets-first-electric-cars/>

CALSTART. 2015, August 18. *Higher Fuel Economy Working For Fleets*. CALSTART: Pasadena, CA. Retrieved: http://fleetowner.com/site-files/fleetowner.com/files/uploads/2015/02/Higher%20Fuel%20Economy%20-%20Working%20for%20Fleets_08_18_2015_final.pdf

Christiansen, B. 2015, August 25. UVU opens electric vehicle charging stations. *Daily Herald*. Retrieved: http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/uvu-opens-electric-vehicle-charging-stations/article_0df54b72-7c69-53ea-9db1-3ed39d161aac.html

Cobb, J. 2015, August 5. July 2015 Dashboard. *Hybrid Cars*. Retrieved: <http://www.hybridcars.com/july-2015-dashboard/>

County 10. 2015, August 23. Wyoming to charge special fee on electric cars to make up for lost fuel taxes. Retrieved: <http://county10.com/2015/08/23/wyoming-to-charge-special-fee-on-electric-cars-to-make-up-for-lost-fuel-taxes/>

Craig, I. 2015, August 12. Electric vehicle charging points introduced at two Worcester car parks. *Worcester News*. Retrieved: http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/13593016.Electric_vehicle_charging_points_introduced_at_two_Worcester_car_parks/

Green Car Congress. 2015, August 13. Cal Energy Commission grants \$2.4M for Class 8 fuel cell hybrid trucks at ports. Retrieved: <http://www.greencarcongress.com/2015/08/20150813-calenergy.html>

- Gregory, M. 2015, August 27. Burlington unveils new electric vehicle charging station downtown. *Inside Halton*. Retrieved: <http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/5817216-burlington-unveils-new-electric-vehicle-charging-station-downtown/>
- Excell, J. 2015, August 13. UK to trial on-the-go charging for electric vehicles. *The Engineer*. Retrieved: <http://www.theengineer.co.uk/automotive/uk-to-trial-on-the-go-charging-for-electric-vehicles/1020900.article>
- Halonen, A., Swim, R., & Roeth, M. 2015, August 25. *Confidence Report: Lightweighting*. North American Council for Freight Efficiency. Retrieved: http://fleetowner.com/site-files/fleetowner.com/files/uploads/2015/08/CWR_trucking_full_report_Lightweighting_FINAL_0.pdf
- Hang Lung Properties. 2015, August 1. Hang Lung Properties Announces Collaboration with Tesla Motors. Retrieved: <http://www.hanglung.com/en/media-center/press-releases/2015/2015-08-03/474a8f84-98ac-4346-962c-bd59a7001bc4.aspx>
- Holder, M. 2015, August 21. Scotland scheme offers £50,000 electric car loans. *Air Quality News*. Retrieved: <http://www.airqualitynews.com/2015/08/21/scotland-scheme-offers-50000-electric-car-loans/>
- Jones, A. 2015, August 26. First electric vehicle charging station unveiled in Rockdale County. *Rockdale Citizen*. Retrieved: <http://www.rockdalecitizen.com/news/2015/aug/26/first-electric-vehicle-charging-station-unveiled/>
- Kessler, A. M. 2015, August 13. Tesla Drivers Will Soon Find More Charging Stations in Manhattan. *The New York Times*. Retrieved: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/13/business/tesla-drivers-will-soon-find-more-charging-stations-in-manhattan.html>
- Korosec, K. 2015, August 20. Airbnb, Tesla partner to make road trips easier for Model S owners. *Fortune*. Retrieved: <http://fortune.com/2015/08/20/airbnb-tesla-partner/>
- Mason, V. 2015, August 21. Two electric vehicle charge points unveiled in Evesham. *Evesham Journal*. Retrieved: http://www.eveshamjournal.co.uk/news/13619685.Two_electric_vehicle_charge_points_unveiled_in_Evesham/
- Petra. 2015, August 23. Hybrid vehicle batteries exempted from sales tax. Retrieved: http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?Site_Id=1&lang=2&NewsID=210537&CatID=-1
- Ramsey, J. 2015, August 25. New electric car chargers at Main Street Station. *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Retrieved: http://www.richmond.com/news/local/city-of-richmond/article_1206c212-3618-5dbc-974c-d18ae3a562fa.html
- Tech Mahindra. 2015, August 18. Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Launching Intelligent Electric Vehicle Charging Pilot. *Environmental Communication Options*. Retrieved: <http://www.huffstrategy.com/MediaManager/release/Tech-Mahindra-Ltd/18-8-15/Niagara-on-the-Lake-Hydro-Launching-Intelligent-Electric-Vehicle-/3152.html>



The Hybrid Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Report
August 30, 2015

ISSN 1946-1011

7

Urie, D. 2015, August 18. Tanger Outlets installs electric vehicle charging stations at its three locations in Pa. *Penn Live*. Retrieved: http://www.pennlive.com/business-news/index.ssf/2015/08/electric_vehicle_charging_stat.html

Wyoming Tribune Eagle. 2015, August 26. Loophole could have Wyoming lawmakers rethink electric vehicle fees. Retrieved: http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2015/08/26/news/17local_08-26-15.txt#.Vd-EdaPn9oI

That is all.